

**Remarks**

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of the allowability of claim 3 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since claim 3 depends from independent claim 26, the limitations of the former have been incorporated into the latter, and that accomplishes the Examiner's recommendation.

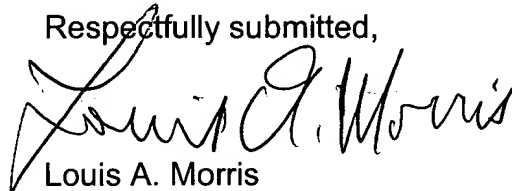
A similar amendment ensures the patentability of claim 25.

Claims 3 and 27 are canceled.

**Conclusion**

In view of the amended claims submitted herewith, all grounds for rejection of the instant claims have been obviated. An early allowance of the instant claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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